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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/552,524	07/20/2006	Dieter Reichel	CBZ-1352	2367
22827 7590 11/26/2008 DORITY & MANNING, P.A. POST OFFICE BOX 1449 GREENVILLE, SC 29602-1449			EXAMINER MC'CARRY JR, ROBERT J	
			ART UNIT 3617	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 11/26/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/552,524

Applicant(s)

REICHEL ET AL.

Examiner

ROBERT J. MCCARRY JR

Art Unit

3617

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 August 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 22-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 22-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SE/US)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 22-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raschbichler et al (US 5,370,059) in view of Raschbichler (US 4,665,329).

Raschbichler et al discloses a track for a magnetically levitated vehicle. The rack is comprised of a carrier assembly 1 having downwardly extending support arms 11. Stator assemblies are mounted on the support arms and the carriers by means of bolts threaded through the stator and anchored in the carrier. Each stator has a front and rear end that contours and mates with the ends of an adjacent stator assembly. Two different surfaces are shown on the stators to align them end to end. One stator has a flat rear end and a stepped front end to mate with an opposite stator as shown to the far left of figure 2. This allows for the cog teeth of the stators to continue to be properly spaced. Another stator assembly has a flat front end and a flat rear end as shown on the stator to the right of figure 2. This stator mates with other stator assemblies with like surfaces, again to endure the proper spacing of the cog teeth along the underside of the stator packets.

Raschbichler et al ('590) discloses the stator packs and track elements as described above. However, Raschbichler et al ('590) does not specifically show a series

of contours and counter-contours at either end of the stator packet to facilitate the joining of two adjacent stator packets. Raschbichler ('329) discloses a stator packet having a recess at an end of the stator packet which mates with a tooth 21 at the end of an adjacent stator packet, joining the two together forming a continuous stator assembly for mounting to a track assembly. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have used Raschbichler ('329) as a teaching to show that a stator packets, like that of Raschbichler et al ('059) can be outfitted with a contoured surface with the expected result of allowing the stator packets to be better connected and to better secure the parts together to insure that the magnetic energy is consistent through the track.

Response to Arguments

The arguments filed on August 6, 2008 have been considered and are persuasive in showing that the prior art of Raschbichler et al ('059) does not show contoured ends. The prior art of Raschbichler ('329) has been used as a teaching to show that contoured ends can be used on stator packets.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Raschbichler et al (US 5,850,794) and Heddrich et al (US 6,889,616) both disclose types of track structures for magnetically levitated vehicles.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ROBERT J. MCCARRY JR whose telephone number is

(571)272-6683. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:00am to 3:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, S. Joseph Morano can be reached on (571) 272-6684. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. Joseph Morano/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3617

/R. J. McCarry Jr./
Examiner, Art Unit 3617

RJM
November 18, 2008